

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCS-05 SCA-01 L-03 SSO-00

/022 W

-----011452 210721Z /16

O 201239Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4649

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NDJAMENA 2458

E.O. 11652: N/A

LMAGS: CB S (TEOFANI, FRANCIS GLEN)

SUBJ: DEATH CASE FRANCIS GLEN TEOFANI

REF: STATE 167167

PASS AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR BRADFORD

1. FOLLOWING IS RECAPITULATION OF EMBASSY ACTIVITIES ELICIT ACCURATE INFORMATION SURROUNDING DEATH OF MR. FRANCIS GLEN TEOFANI JULY 1, 1977, AND RESUME EMBASSY INFORMATION ON SUBJECT TO DATE.

2. IN EARLY MORNING OF JULY 1 DCM WAS NOTIFIED BY CONOCO CHAD CHAD VICE PRESIDENT THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT AMERICAN CITIZEN, FRANCIS GLEN TEOFANI, AN EMPLOYEE OF AN AMERICAN COMPANY ENGAGED BY A SUBCONTRACTOR OF CONOCO/CHAD, MAY HAVE SUFFERED VIOLENT DEATH IN NDJAMENA DURING TRANSIT STOPOVER. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER DCM RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM POLICE COMMISSAIRE SOUDOT STATING THAT BODY IDENTIFIED AS THAT OF MR. TEOFANI AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL MORGUE. VICE CONSUL MALCOMSON AND THIRD SECRETARY LANG IMMEDIATELY VISITED MORGUE AND IDENTIFIED BODY FROM PASSPORT PHOTO AND CONFIRMED IDENTITY WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF COMPANY.

3. DR. SERGEI KOULADJENKOV, SOVIET NATIONAL SERVING WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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CHADIAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PHYSICIAN ON EMERGENCY DUTY HOSPITAL JULY 1, EXAMINED THE BODY OF MR. TEOFANI (APPARENTLY BETWEEN 0700 HOURS AND 0830 HOURS JULY 1) AND MADE FOLLOWING WRITTEN STATEMENT (UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH):

"I, THE UNDERSIGNED, DOCTOR KOULADJENKOV, SURGEON ON DUTY AT

THE NDJAMENA CENTRAL HOSPITAL, UNDER ORDERS FROM THE CENTRAL POLICE COMMISSIONER OF THE CITY OF NDJAMENA, TO EXAMINE THE BODY OF MR FRANCIS TEOFANI; CERTIFY HAVING EXAMINED THIS DAY (1 JULY 1977) MR FRANCIS AND DETERMINED THE FOLLOWING; A PENETRATING WOUND BY A KNIFE LEVEL WITH THE HEART, CAUSE WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT HIS DEATH ON 1 JULY 1977."

4. FEW DAYS LATER, AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, VICE CONSUL MALCOMSON INTERVIEWED DR. KOULADJENKOV IN PRESENCE OF DR. R. BEAUMONT, FRENCH HEAD OF SURGERY AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL. DR. KOULADJENKOV EXPRESSED FOLLOWING: (1) THAT THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE WOUND; (2) THAT IN HIS OPINION THE WOUND WAS CAUSED BY HAND HELD KNIFE LOCALLY REFERRED TO AS A "SAKKINE", I.E., HAND-HELD DOUBLE EDGED DAGGER, GENERALLY APPROXIMATELY EIGHT INCHES LONG, TAPERING TO A SMALL POINT; (3) THAT THE PERSON WHO INFLICTED THE WOUND WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE DECEASED AND DROVE THE KNIFE IN WITH GREAT FORCE; (4) THAT DECEASED COULD NOT HAVE MOVED MORE THAN A COUPLE OF STEPS BEFORE FALLING OVER DEAD; AND (5) THAT DEATH HAD OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY SIX HOURS BEFORE THE EXAMINATION, I.E., BETWEEN 0130 AND 0230 JULY 1.

5. VICE CONSUL MALCOMSON AND THIRD SECRETARY LANG IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS JULY 4, 1977 WITH POLICE AND LATER WITH MINISTRY JUSTICE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING DEATH, RECEIVED PRELIMINARY ORAL REPORTS THAT APPEAR TO CONTRADICT DR. UNCLASSIFIED

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KOULADJENKOV'S FINDINGS. WHILE POLICE STORIES DIFFERED IN DETAILS, POLICE APPEAR IN GENERAL TO BELIEVE THAT THE WOUND WAS INFLICTED BY A THROWING KNIFE ("COUTEAU DE JET"), I.E., A BOOMERANG-SHAPED DEVICE APPROXIMATELY TWO AND A HALF FEET LONG, WEIGHING ABOUT THREE POUNDS, GENERALLY WITH THREE POINTS AND OFTEN HONED ON BOTH SIDES. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE KNIFE IN QUESTION WAS THROWN SIDE ARM FROM APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN FEET WHILE THE DECEASED WAS ON TOP OF AN APPROXIMATELY SEVEN FOOT WALL PREPARING TO JUMP INTO THE STREET BELOW. THE POLICE SPECULATE THE KNIFE STRUCK WHILE VICTIM SQUATTING ON THE WALL AND TURNED AT AN UNDETERMINED ANGLE. THE POLICE CLAIM THE DECEASED PULLED OUT KNIFE, JUMPED TO STREET, AND RAN APPROXIMATELY 100 METERS BEFORE DYING. THE SHIRT WORN BY THE DECEASED HAS NOT BEEN FOUND. POLICE HAVE A KNIFE WHICH THEY BELIEVE MIGHT BE INSTRUMENT WHICH INFLICTED THE WOUND, ALTHOUGH KNIFE CLEAN WHEN RECOVERED. A CITIZEN OF NIGER REPORTED IS UNDER ARREST FOR SUSPICION OF THE MURDER.

6. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AUTHORITIES IN DISCUSSING THE CASE WITH

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4650

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VICE CONSUL MALCOMSON ON JULY 6 SHOWED HIM FOUR PICTURES OF THE DECEASED WHICH APPARENTLY ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL REPORT. THIS OFFICIAL TOLD THE VICE CONSUL THAT AN OFFICIAL EMBASSY REQUEST WOULD BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE FINAL REPORT. CONSEQUENTLY ON JULY 7 THE EMBASSY REQUESTED BY NOTE VERBALE THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (WITH CARBON COPY SENT DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE) THE FORMAL POLICE REPORT. ON JULY 13 THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, E.I., DISCUSSED THIS REQUEST WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL NANASBAYE AND REQUESTED HIS PERSONAL INTERCESSION IN OBTAINING A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT. ON JULY 20 THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, AGAIN DISCUSSED THE EMBASSY'S OUTSTANDING REQUEST, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE EMBASSY PLACED ON A PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE MATTER, AND STATING THAT HE CONSIDERED IT IN THE INTERESTS OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN CHAD AND THE UNITED STATES THAT AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE, IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE INCLUDING PHOTOS, WAS DESIRED. THE CHARGE ADDED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE CONFLICTING REPORTS REGARDING THE DEATH, THAT THE DECEASED FATHER WAS AWARE OF THESE CONFLICTING REPORTS, AND THAT THE DECEASED FATHER HAD EMPLOYED AN AMERICAN PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR TO COME TO CHAD TO ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN THE ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL STATED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY APPROVED THE TRANSMISSION OF THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCT A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF TO VISIT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO EXPEDITE THE RESPONSE.

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7. VICE CONSUL MALCOMSON HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FRENCH CRIMINAL POLICE INVESTIGATOR ON LOAN TO CHADIAN POLICE WHO HAS PROMISED WHATEVER COOPERATION HE CAN GIVE.

8. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT DELAY IN FURNISHING POLICE REPORT DUE TO INEFFICIENCIES AS SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR BRADFORD AND, POSSIBLY, INABILITY VARIOUS INVESTIGATING AUTHORITIES TO AGREE ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH.

9. AT DISCRETION OF DEPARTMENT, PLEASE PASS ON ABOVE TO MR. FRANK A. TEOFANI, 700 SOUTH OCEAN BLVD., BOCA RATON, FLORIDA, 33432, TEL. 305-392-0907 AND DR. KALD K. WRIGHT, MEDICAL EXAMER, METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TEL 305-325-7337, TWX 810-848-7189. REFTEL SUGGESTS MR. TEOFANI CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON. NOTE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST REFTEL.DWYER

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Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE
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To: STATE
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